

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-18 are pending. Claim 12 is amended and claim 13 is canceled.

Interview

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of conducting an interview with the Applicant's representative on August 23, 2002, and for reconsidering the rejection of independent claims 1, 8, and 17. As discussed during the interview and noted on the interview summary, claims 1, 8 and 17 overcome the rejection under Enomoto (U.S. Pat. No. 6,324,345 B1) and claim 12 is amended herein to include the features of claim 13, which has been indicated as allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all independent claims are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e)

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Enomoto. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above and noted on the Interview Summary dated August 23, 2002, the Examiner has agreed that Enomoto does not teach all the features of independent claims 1, 8 and 17. Additionally, Applicant has amended claim 12 to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 13.

Accordingly, all of independent claims 1, 8, 12 and 17 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding dependent claims 2-3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14 and 17, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their corresponding independent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests removal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it raises no new issues and places the application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative better form for Appeal. Early and favorable notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jayne Saydah (Reg. No. 48,796) at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

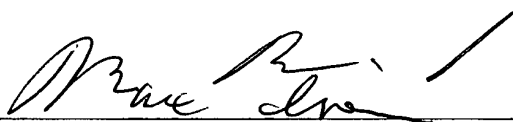
Applicant respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a two-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of \$400.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



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Attachment: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Twice Amended) An image reading method comprising:

performing a first scan of an image and generating first image data;

performing a second scan of the image and generating second image data;

generating a correction condition by processing the first image data and the second image data; and

applying the correction condition to the second image data,

wherein the first scan is performed at a first resolution and the second scan is performed at a second resolution[.], **and**

wherein the step of generating the correction condition includes

analyzing the first image data and generating a first image characteristic value;

analyzing the second image data and generating a second image characteristic value;

comparing the first image characteristic value and the second image characteristic value; and

generating the correction condition such that the first image
characteristic value matches the second image characteristic value.

Claim 13 is canceled.